

3. Description of a Remarkable new Spider from Madagascar. By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

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Amongst a series of insects of various orders recently collected in Madagascar by the Rev. William Deans Cowan, I found two Epeirids which especially interested me. The first of these I at once recognized as a fine example of the *Epeira tuberculosa* of Vinson (Aran. de Réunion, Maurice, et Madagascar, pl. xiv. fig. 2), specimens of which were previously in the collection of the British Museum.

The second spider struck me as so extraordinary that I wrote to the Rev. O. P. Cambridge respecting it. He tells me that it is a *Cærostris*, allied to *C. mitralis*, Vinson (*loc. cit.* pl. ix. figs. 2-4), but it appears to be perfectly distinct. "*Epeira tuberculosa*" belongs also to *Cærostris*.

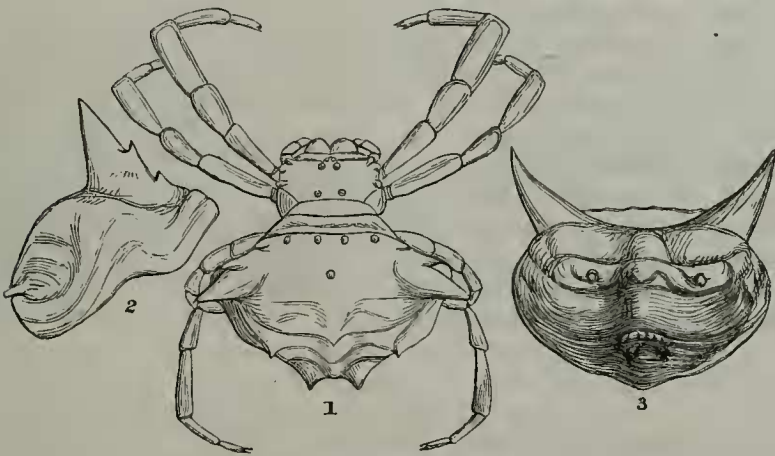


Fig. 1. *Cærostris avernalis* (enlarged).


Fig. 2. Profile of abdomen.

Fig. 3. View of abdomen from behind.

CÆROSTRIS AVERNALIS, n. sp.

Cephalothorax and falces dark castaneous, clothed at the sides and behind with whity-brown pile; palpi and legs above bright reddish castaneous, hairy at the sides, the femora cylindrical, with blackish lateral hairs, the tibiæ and tarsi flattened and longitudinally bisulcate, with whitish lateral hairs; tibiæ and tarsi below with their basal or distal extremities broadly belted with whitish, and their proximal extremities blackish; abdomen dark clay-coloured, covered (excepting the tubercles and odontoid processes) with whitish pile; centre of ventral surface blackish.

Falces large, rugulose, subcylindrical; palpi broad, flattened, bi-

sulcated, hairy at the sides; cephalothorax broader than long, with a small central projection in front, so that its anterior margin is -shaped; a broad gradually formed transverse ridge almost uniting the three oculiferous tubercles; the central oculiferous tubercle forming a transverse oval, with a central longitudinal depression, its highest point just within the eyes, and the uppermost surface of the eyes themselves flattened (as if filed smooth), the anterior pair of eyes much nearer to each other than the posterior pair; lateral oculiferous tubercles standing out obliquely from the antero-lateral angles of the cephalothorax, the eyes much smaller than those of the central group; a long cylindrical process emitted from each side of the cephalothorax at its postero-lateral angles and parallel to the lateral oculiferous tubercles; two widely separated conical tubercles standing perpendicularly upon the posterior border of the cephalothorax: abdomen irregularly subscutiform, with two terminal tubercles, between which it is sinuated; anterior margin with six conical tubercles, followed by a large unequally bidentate process on each side, these processes being widely divergent and oblique; a very minute tubercle on a bare spot between them; second superior abdominal fold with an acute conical tubercle on each side; pectoral shield heptagonal, its margins swollen.

Length 16 millims., including cephalothorax, of abdomen alone 12, width at widest part 15; length of lateral odontoid processes 6, width from tip to tip of processes 15; relative length of legs 1, 2, 4, 3.

Fianarantsoa, Madagascar.

Type in Coll. B. M.

Readily distinguished from *C. mitralis* by the much more prominent, more unequally bidentate, and far more divergent odontoid processes on the abdomen, the almost entire absence of the large central conical tubercle, the different arrangement of the tubercles on the margins of the abdomen, and the absence of bands on the upper surface of the legs.

4. Description of six new Species of Snakes of the Genus *Silybura*, Family *Uropeltidæ*, from the Peninsula of India.

By Lieut.-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, C.M.Z.S.

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SILYBURA.

Sect. 1. *Scales in nineteen rows.*

* *Caudal disk flat.*

SILYBURA BROUGHAMI, n. sp.

Scales in 19 rows round middle of body, and neck; ventrals 224. Rostral large, high and sharp, nearly but not quite separating the nasals. Caudal disk flat, the scales prominently 3-5-keeled; terminal scute slightly bicuspid, the points side by side. Subcaudals 6. Colour brown, with a series of transverse wavy black blotches